



Newsletter



Tom meets local children representing the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, who joined their parents in thanking him for supporting scientific efforts to combat diabetes. The National Diabetes Information Clearing House reports that more than 200,000 people under 20 in the United States had diabetes last year. Pictured here with Tom are Katie, Elisabeth and Caroline Holliday of Menlo Park and Malcolm Lazarow of San Mateo.

Spotlight on Legislation

Bill Will Add Thousands of Acres to National Park

Congressman Lantos is pushing to expand the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) to protect permanently one of the most scenic properties on the San Mateo coast.

Rising 2,000 feet from Highway 1 to the top of Montara Mountain, the 4,262 acres of Rancho Corral de Tierra provide spectacular panoramic vistas of important watersheds and a tremendous variety of wildlife and vegetation. One of the largest pristine properties on the Peninsula, this remaining piece of the original Spanish land grants offers a southern gateway to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park.

Protecting the environment and open space has been one of our region's highest priorities. Building on Tom's success over the years in adding Sweeney Ridge, Mori Point, and the Phlegar Estate to the GGNRA, the acquisition of Rancho Corral de Tierra by the National Park Service will

permanently protect this scenic corridor from development. It will also provide greater public access for recreational use for picnics and trails for biking, hiking, and horseback riding.

The passage of the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act is a top priority for the 108th Congress.

New Federal Funds for Education

With Tom Lantos' backing, the San Mateo-Foster City School District has won a major federal grant for an innovative program that helps improve children's language skills.

The \$96,609 grant from the U.S. Department of Education is meant to improve the K-12 two-way immersion (TWI) project now serving 469 students.

"Without language skills, kids can fall behind at school and in the workplace later on," Tom said. "The infusion of federal support will help attract new teachers, and will enable the expansion of language programs to include more students."

These funds are in addition to the roughly \$9 million per year in federal support that schools in our congressional district have received in 2003 and 2004. Tom has consistently opposed efforts to reduce federal investment in our schools. He fights for programs that help prepare students for college and help them pay their college costs.

This year, nearly \$965,000 in additional federal grants have been awarded to programs in our schools to encourage students to go on to college. The two largest grants have gone to programs designed to motivate and to support financially students from disadvantaged backgrounds. These programs include six outreach and support projects targeted toward low-income and disabled students, and places particular emphasis on helping those students who are the first in their families to attend college.

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Ombudsman*:

Breaking an Immigration Logjam To Bring San Francisco Boy Home

For many children, a visit to their grandparents' place is one of summer's simple joys. But Michael Doran's trip to Cork, Ireland, last summer – when he was just five years old – turned worrisome when U.S. immigration authorities wouldn't let him come home.

His parents, Michael and Caroline Doran, were born in Ireland and moved to the United States in 1993. Michael Sr. became an American citizen after serving overseas in the U.S. Army. Caroline is a permanent resident, with a naturalization petition in the works.

They sent Michael Jr. from San Francisco to Ireland for what was meant to be three weeks, thinking that his own paperwork was in order. But to his parents' distress, Michael was not allowed to board the plane home because immigration authorities had no trace of little Michael's computer file.

"He wasn't too concerned at first, because the longer he stayed with his grandparents, the more they spoiled them," Michaels' father recalled. "But after a while, he started to become concerned. He kept asking why he couldn't come home, or whether he couldn't just crawl into somebody's suitcase."

When the Dorans contacted Congressman Lantos for help, he went to work to reunite the family: he contacted the right officials at the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department, who tracked down the paperwork and approved Michael for permanent residency. At the congressman's request, the U.S. ambassador to Ireland contacted his grandparents to let them know that Michael was finally allowed to go home.

Michael got back to California just in time to start in the first grade, and you can imagine what kind of a report he might have made on "what I did last summer!"

A New Start and A Happy Ending

Michael and Anne of San Bruno were able to celebrate their paper anniversary together, thanks in part to Tom's help with some delayed immigration paperwork that nearly canceled their wedding plans.

Michael met Anne, who is from Finland, while she was working for Finnair. Over many months they fell in love, and when Michael proposed in September, 2002, Anne joyfully accepted. Right away, he filed the immigration petition for a fiancé visa, and started making plans for a seaside wedding in Pacifica the next May.

Officials at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services had said the visa processing would take 34 to 64 days, but the petition still had not been approved by March 2003. That's when Michael reached out to Tom Lantos for help.

Staff in our district office traced the petition through every step of the process, from the local Immigration Service office to the U.S. embassy in Helsinki. The visa was immediately approved in April, 2003, just in time for the wedding.

* **om-buds-man** (*n*): an official appointed to receive and investigate complaints made by individuals against capricious acts of public authorities

Fulfilling Students' Dreams of Service to Their Country

Eight young men and three young women from the Peninsula have begun preparations to enter the United States Service Academies this fall. After a lengthy and competitive application process that included nominations by their congressman, Tom Lantos, the eleven stellar students were selected for the Class of 2008.

"I am delighted that I have been able to nominate so many wonderful young men and women from our congressional district this year," Tom said. "This is a testament to the outstanding quality of our schools, the applicants' accomplishments and perseverance, and their dedication to serving their country."

The United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland has accepted Guillermo Arguello of San Bruno, Jesse Burdick

of Pacifica, John Hayashi of San Mateo, Gregory Mason of San Mateo, Kevin Seiff of Hillsborough, James Terheyden of Colma, and Laura Zimmerman of San Francisco. Two young men have begun training for their plebe year at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York: Joseph Feifer of San Francisco and Jerry Tseng of South San Francisco. The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado has appointed Rachael Mooney of Burlingame and Danielle Paya of Redwood City.

In addition to these appointments, the United States Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island has accepted Jorge Hernandez of Daly City and Adrien Malone of Pacifica. Northwestern Preparatory

School in Malibu, California has accepted Blake Cunningham of San Francisco. Upon successful completion of their respective programs, these students will be nominated to their preferred Service Academies.

Our office is now accepting applications from young men and women of the 12th Congressional District for nominations to the United States Service Academies next year. A nomination is required for appointment to the Service Academies. To request a nomination, please write to us at 400 S. El Camino Real, Suite 410, San Mateo, CA 94402, or go online at www.house.gov/lantos. Applications for the Class of 2009 must be submitted by November 1, 2004.

Stopping Human Rights Abuse in Sudan

In May, more than a month before the United Nations and the U.S. State Department made commitments to halt widespread human rights abuses in the Darfur region of Sudan, Tom urged the international community to act in an opinion editorial in The Boston Globe. This was one of several recent op-eds by Tom on a variety of subjects, including a San Francisco Chronicle piece on nuclear non-proliferation, one in The San Mateo County Times on his legislative steps to fix the Patriot Act, and one in the San Mateo Daily Journal about his legislation to bridge the pay gap for members of the reserves and National Guard. Here are some excerpts from the piece on Sudan:

The international community cannot continue to tolerate the slaughter of innocent civilians in the state of Darfur, western Sudan, or the duplicitous acts of the Sudanese government that let the perpetrators turn their backs on justice and saunter away.

In light of escalating violence in Darfur and a deteriorating humanitarian situation, immediate intervention by the international community is required. Ten years ago, we failed to act in a timely fashion in Rwanda, and the consequences were horrendous. Preventive intervention now may keep a similar tragedy from befalling Darfur.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Sudanese government has supported indiscriminate killings of civilians, gang rapes, looting of private property and humanitarian aid, burning of villages, abductions, forced migration and general intimidation.

The US government should have no illusions that what is taking place in Darfur is ethnic cleansing. The Sudan is a government determined to use every opportunity, whether through peace negotiations or war, to expand its grip on local resources, impose Sharia law on non-Muslims, and to propagate a hateful racial and cultural

ideology to maintain political hegemony over the diverse communities in Sudan. The United States must lead the international community to pressure the Sudanese government to halt the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians, open access to humanitarian aid, and agree to a strong monitoring mechanism for the cease-fire agreement.

If the Khartoum regime resists international pressure, the international community must be prepared to counter the intransigents of the regime. Anything less puts a lie to the often repeated call for "never again" to tolerate the targeted persecution of an entire people. Khartoum must stop this tragedy now and prevent the further destruction of innocent lives.

Since this op-ed was published, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan have been to Darfur, and steps are being taken to relieve the situation there.

Seeking Justice for California Consumers Victimized in State Energy Crisis

Tom has joined in taking legal steps to secure compensation from utilities that overcharged California consumers \$9 billion during the 2000-2001 electricity crisis.

The state's Democratic representatives in Congress, as well as top Democratic leaders at the state level, filed an amicus brief in the spring before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The brief asks the court to clarify a previous order in the case, and to direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to collect evidence of energy market manipulation. FERC has been adjudicating these issues in closed-door proceedings that shut California consumers out of the process.

"The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proves time and again that it does not exist to protect California consumers," Tom said. "FERC has been almost silent on the multi-billion dollar issue of overcharges as Californians continue to pay for the illegal, manipulative energy company practices. The private settlements FERC has engineered behind closed doors are a pittance next to the blatant market manipulation that cost

Californians billions of dollars in high energy rates."

The vast majority of Californians suffered significant economic harm during the 2000-2001 electricity crisis as the result of inflated energy prices caused by widespread illegal manipulation of California's energy markets by ener-

gy wholesalers and marketers. Unless the Court grants the relief requested of it, their voices will not be heard. And as the recently-revealed tapes of Enron traders discussing market manipulation prove, private industry acting on its own will not do what is right by the consumer in this case.

Federal Grant to Benefit Firefighting in Daly City, Brisbane and Pacifica

Peninsula firefighters will have more ways to enlist the community's help in preventing residential fires, thanks to a federal grant.

With the new funds, Daly City's fire department can now implement long-standing plans to substantially expand its community education program, Tom announced recently.

"Vital information on fire safety will now be shared from home to home, at community centers and in the schools, thanks to an imaginative project that will spread the word about ways to prevent fires," he said.

The federal funds will benefit the residents of Daly City, Brisbane and Pacifica. A reported 70 percent of residential fires in Daly City begin in kitchens, most of them in apartments. The new Assistance to Firefighters grant, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will be used to produce brochures, banners and posters for presentations at schools and to adult groups, and to pay for a graphics computer, a color printer, a multi-media projector and a sound system.

Honoring Military Sacrifices Throughout History



Tom delivers remarks on freedom and national service at the annual ceremony in the Presidio, left. At right, Tom discusses veterans' issues with Al Holting, Vilas Gocke, Leonard Blomstedt and Philip Dresden, all of them veterans of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno.

On a warm and sunny Memorial Day 2004, Tom spoke to veterans and the surviving loved ones of veterans of World War II, the Vietnam War and other military actions at two ceremonies, one at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, and the other in the Presidio. Here are some excerpts from his remarks:

We gather today to honor soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have bravely fought to safeguard the interests of our country, and to offer what consolation we can to their families by ensuring

that their losses shall not be forgotten.

The debt owed to those courageous men and women is immeasurable. Their sacrifices are the foundation of the freedoms that we enjoy. Without them, the course of our nation's history would have been unimaginably altered, and the maps of the world would be drawn in ways we might not recognize. Thanks to those men and women who contributed to the great cause of freedom, around the globe there are families united, children in school and people worshipping as they choose.

Speaking in the battlefield at Gettysburg,

President Abraham Lincoln said:

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced ... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

It is for us here today to preserve the spirit that animated those words, and that has moved many brave American men and women to do all they can for generations since this nation was founded to advance freedom.

Winning Federal Grants to Improve Our Local Airports, Large and Small

Tom has helped secure substantial federal funds to improve the area's air safety and passenger security, and to smooth the flow of air traffic.

San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is receiving \$15 million to complete its new baggage screening system, the Explosives Detection System (EDS). This innovative system was developed at SFO and has served as a model for other airports. With the support of key members of the Bay Area Congressional delegation, Tom spent many months urging

Transportation Safety Administration officials to make these funds available.

He was also pleased to announce a grant for much-needed weather-reporting equipment and new beacons at Half Moon Bay Airport.

The \$186,200 grant will fund the installation next year of an Automated Weather Observing System (AWOD), the replacement of the airport's outdated rotating weather beacon and its deteriorating beacon tower. The weather station will provide pilots with live information 24 hours per day. Pilots currently have to

phone the airport during normal business hours to receive updated reports on flying conditions.

"Given the important role that the Half Moon Bay Airport plays in relieving other regional airports of smaller plane traffic, this development significantly enhances the region's security," Tom said in spreading the word about the new grant. "And in case of sudden fog or inclement weather, this technology will be especially useful for safe flying along the coast."

Tom Lantos Lauded For His Work On Behalf of Human Rights in Burma

The Daly City-based Burmese American Democratic Alliance has honored Tom Lantos for his "unwavering support for democ-

racy development in Burma."

Chan Min, the group's vice president, noted in a speech that last year Tom authored and championed the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, which imposed tough new sanctions on Burma and provided strong incentives for democratic change and human rights there.

The group then presented a plaque "in recognition of the efforts you have put into the cause of democracy and peace and well-being for the people of Burma."

The Burmese American Democratic Alliance promotes public education and corporate investment accountability, and takes part in human rights campaign activities across the United States.

"Unfortunately, the case for a tough approach toward Burma, including a comprehensive import ban, is even stronger now than a year ago," Tom said. "Until Burma embarks on an irreversible path of reconciliation that includes the full and unfettered participation on the National League for Democracy and ethnic minorities, the United States must continue to deny Burma's leaders the hard currency they so desperately crave."

In June the House passed Tom's legislation to extend for another year sanctions that the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act instituted. The President signed the sanctions extension into law in July.



Tom Lantos, accompanied by his wife Annette, accepts an award from members of the Burmese American Democratic Alliance, headquartered in Daly City, commemorating his long-term work on behalf of the people of Burma.

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